

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are all the claims pending in the application after entry of the foregoing amendments.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sperry (U.S. Patent 1,362,753) in view of Utsunomiya et al. (U.S. Patent 4,442,371).

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sperry and Utsunomiya et al. in view of Carter (U.S. Patent 4,366,387).

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sperry in view of Utsunomiya et al. and Benoit (U.S. 4,350,898).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sperry in view of Utsunomiya et al. and Rao (U.S. 6,133,659).

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sperry, Utsunomiya et al. and Benoit as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of A. J. Piel (U.S. Patent No. 3,076,510).

The rejections are respectively traversed. The Examiner has indicated that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the features of any interviewing claims (i.e., claims 1, 2 and 9). Applicant amends claim

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 09/653,408

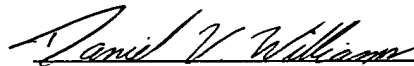
Attorney Docket No.: Q60439

I to include the features of claims 2, 9 and 10 to place the case in immediate condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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